

## I-405 Kirkland Nickel Project – Stage 1 Construction

### **Environmental Improvements**

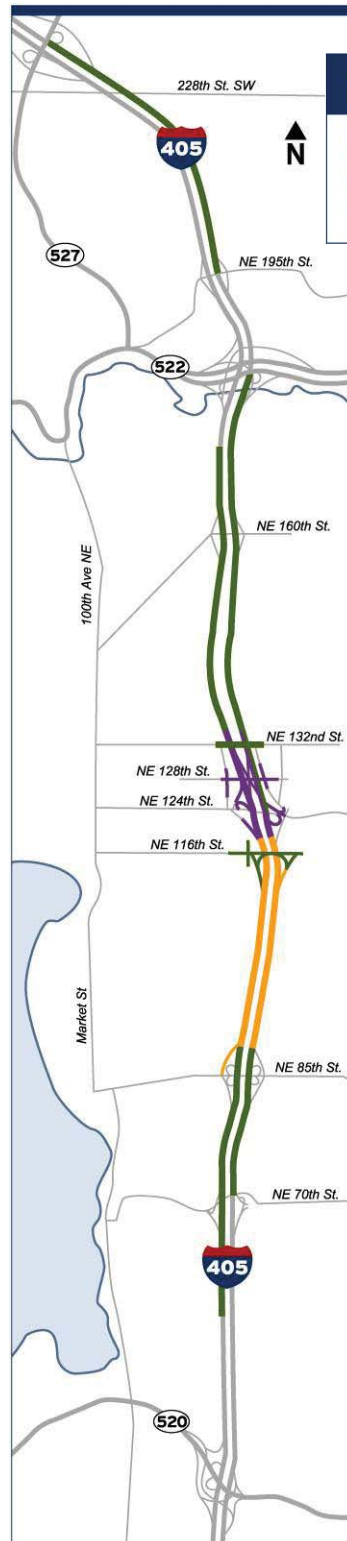
The Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 Project, in combination with the Totem Lake Freeway Station Project, and future I-405 widening projects, provide congestion relief, improved safety, and new capacity to better serve the region's transportation needs.

#### **What's our environmental commitment?**

WSDOT ensures environmental factors will be integrated during the design and construction of the project by conducting site-specific environmental assessments which are consistent with the corridor environmental impact statement. During the design process, an Environmental Task Force was engaged and included specialists ranging from hydraulic designers and geotechnical engineers to fish biologists and wetland ecologists.



Forbes Lake is located just east of I-405, and drains via Forbes Creek to the North. The new culvert will run under I-405 north of NE 100th Street, where it will empty into the new streambed.



#### **I-405 Kirkland Area Improvement Projects and Construction Dates**

- Totem Lake Freeway Station (Summer 2005-late 2006)
- Stage 1 Kirkland Nickel Improvement Project (late 2005-late 2007)
- SR 520 to I-5 Project (2009-2011)

Several environmental improvements will be made in Phase 1 of the project (April - September 2006). These include improving fish passage in Forbes Creek, accommodating for additional surface water runoff from increased lanes, and wetland mitigation. Constructing these improvements early ensures that the environment is protected both during and after construction.

#### **Where is Forbes Creek located?**

Forbes Creek flows approximately two miles through the City of Kirkland and a wetland area before entering the northeast corner of Lake Washington at the south side of Juanita Bay. The stream runs through various landscapes, ranging from wetlands and forested areas to urban and industrial development.

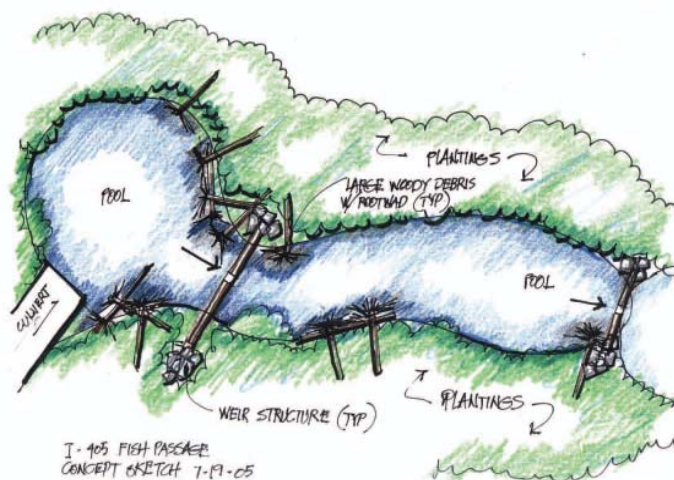
#### **Why restore Forbes Creek?**

As one of Kirkland's largest and most important streams, Forbes Creek provides habitat for Cutthroat trout and Coho salmon. The creek also provides wildlife habitat in its wetlands and along its riparian corridor.

## Stage 1 Environmental Improvements

### How will Forbes Creek be improved?

In addition to being realigned to shorten its length by 40%, the new culvert will be six and a half feet in diameter. The shorter, larger culvert will help Cutthroat trout move safely through the channel. In addition to realigning the culvert, we'll be creating over 250 feet of natural streambed below the culvert. We'll also construct a series of natural pools to help eliminate the need for fish ladders which are difficult to maintain. Trees removed during construction will be used to help create natural habitat for the new stream.



Over 250 feet of new natural streambed will be created on the west side of I-405 near NE 100th Street. The streambed and new culvert remove fish passage barriers.

This innovative design will improve the channel, creating new habitat for fish. For example, Cutthroat trout will be able to use this area for juvenile fish rearing. The design will also reduce the long-term maintenance needs of the fish passage and culvert.

### What about wetlands?

Wetlands are important for stormwater control and water quality maintenance. As the remaining areas of the basin urbanize, development will increase the volume of runoff flowing into drainage facilities and waterways. As a result, the increased runoff will cause erosion and flooding.

Maintaining this wetland and the associated floodplain is a high priority for both the health and integrity of the basin's water quality and ecology. To ensure that wetlands are not lost as a result of the Kirkland Nickel Project, three sites, including two adjacent to Forbes Lake and one at Thrashers Corner, will be used to build new or enhance existing wetlands.

### Will these improvements impact traffic?

Construction of the environmental improvements will not affect traffic. The project's environmental improvements were designed to avoid costly and disruptive detours.

## Regular Construction Updates

For construction updates on the Kirkland Nickel Project and other I-405 projects, join WSDOT's email update list by sending an email to [lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov) with "subscribe i-405" in the body of the message. Also visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/SR520toSR522/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/SR520toSR522/) for more information.

### Do you want more information about environmental improvements?

If you would like more information about environmental improvements, any other part of the Kirkland I-405 Stage 1 construction project, or would like to schedule a presentation for your group or organization, please contact:

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